

Application No.: 10/748548

Case No.: 56590US008

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending, of which claims 15, 20-26, 35, 38, 39 and 42 have been withdrawn. The remaining claims stand rejected, with claims 3 and 4 being indicated as allowable if properly re-written in independent form. Without acquiescing in any of the various rejections, and in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include all the features of claims 2 and 3, thereby placing claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 13, 14, 16-19, 27-34, 36, 37, 40, 41 and 43 have been cancelled, leaving claims 1, 4 and 10-12 pending and under consideration.

In light of this amendment, Applicants submit that the various rejections have been rendered moot, and request their reconsideration and withdrawal. Examination and consideration of the application as amended is requested and allowance of claims 1, 4 and 10-12, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

With this response, an earnest effort has been made to respond to all issues raised in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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